

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 AGR-05 DLOS-04 OFA-01

CU-02 /130 W

----- 041557

R 271600Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7899

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BANGJI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORT, CM, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON CAMEROON

REF: STATE 37591

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION: CAMEROON, UNDER LONGTIME LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO, IS AN ESSENTIALLY MODERATE, RATIONALLY DIRECTED THIRD WORLD COUNTRY. DEVELOPMENT POLICY AT HOME IS BASED ON "PLANNED LIBERALISM" -- STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRIVATE INVESTORS WITHIN GUIDELINES LAID DOWN IN GOVT PLAN. THERE IS NO TALK OF SOCIALISM, WHETHER OF AFRICAN OR ANY OTHER VARIETY. GURC MAINTAINS EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH AND RECEIVED AID FROM
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WIDE SPECTRUM OF COUNTRIES INCLUDING FRANCE, GERMANY, UK,

OTHER WESTERN EUROPEANS, CANADA, AND US, SOVIET UNION; AND CHINA. AT SAME TIME GURC FEELS DEEP COMMUNITY OF INTEREST AND IS UNUSUALLY CONCERNED WITH MAINTIANING SOLIDARITY -- EVEN WHEN IT HAS DOUBTS ON SUBSTANCE OF PARTICULAR ISSUE -- WITH OAU, ARABS, NONALIGNED, AND GROUP OF 77. THIRD WORLD OPTIC PREDOMINATES. GURC SINCERELY BELIEVES IN JUSTICE OF LDC SIDE OF NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, BUT SEEKS RATIONAL SOLUTIONS THROUGH DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION. EVEN WHEN IT VOTES AGAINST US IN UN, AS IT OFTEN DOES, IT DOES NOT DO SO "MECHANICALLY" AND DOES NOT GLOAT OVER US "DEFEATS." GURC FEELINGS RUN STRONG ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN RACIAL ISSUES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE PARA 7 REFTEL:

(A) PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES RELATE TO GAMUT OF NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS OF COMMODITY TRADE. FOCUS OF ATTENTION FOR GURC IN 1976 IS CIEC IN WHICH CAMEROON IS ONE OF LDC PARTICIPANTS. YAOUNDE 572 AND 573 REPORT GURC VIEWS ON CIEC AND ESPECIALLY ON ISSUES TO BE COVERED BY RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS OF WHICH GURC IS MEMBER. CAMEROON ATTENDS PLETHORA OF SUBREGIONAL (CENTRAL AFRICAN OR WEST/CENTRAL AFRICAN), AFRICAN, NONALIGNED, GP OF 77, UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCY MEETINGS ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEMES. WE HAVE IMPRESSION GURC DELEGATES ARE MODERATELY WELL INFORMED, BUT NOT AMONG IMPORTANT INITIATIVE-TAKERS IN LARGER FORA. GURC IS CANDIDATE FOR UGROUP A SEAT OF UNCTAD COUNCIL ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

(B) GURC FEELS BOUND BY DEMANDS OF OAU, AFRO-ARAB, NON-ALIGNED, AND THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY, DESPITE ITS RECOGNITION THAT A MILITANT MINORITY OFTEN PUSHES THESE GROUPS TO POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY ON POLITICAL MATTERS, FOR WHICH GURC SHARES NO REAL ENTHUSIASM. GURC MAINTAINS GOOD RELATIONS AND CONSULTS RELATIVELY FREQUENTLY WITH IMPORTANT AFRICAN COUNTRIES (E.G. ALGERIA AND ZAIRE) WHICH IT DOES NOT ESPECIALLY TRUST OR FEEL AFFINITY FOR. CONSULTATIONS ARE MORE FREQUENT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS ON BILATERAL AND SUBREGIONAL ISSUES, BUT NOT ON BROADER MULTILATERAL ISSUES. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT GURC EITHER HAS OR TRIES

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TO EXERT INFLUENCE ABOUT SUCH MATTERS ON NEIGHBORS, NOR IS IT INFLUENCED BY THEM. PRESIDENT AHIDJO HAS CLOSE PERSONAL TIES AND CONSULTS FREQUENTLY WITH MAURITANIAN AND SENEGALESE COUNTERPARTS, ESPECIALLY OULD DADDAH, WITH WHOM INFLUENCE PROBABLY RUNS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS.

(C) WE BELIEVE GURC PROVIDES ITS DELS TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WITH GENERAL GUIDELINES, PLUS MORE SPECIFIC

INSTRUCTIONS ONLY ISSUES OF SPECIAL INTEREST. DELS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY TO STAY WITHIN PARAMETERS OF AFRICAN/NONALIGNED/THIRD WORLD POSITIONS AS ISSUES EVOLVE. SUBJECT TO SPEED WITH WHICH SITUATION AT MEETING MOVES, GURC CAN WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS STAY IN TOUCH WITH AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROL DELS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES ON WHICH GURC HAS PREVIOUSLY FOCUSSED (E.G. HOT POLITICAL ISSUES AT UNGA-KOREA, ZIONISM). GURC, OF COURSE, ALWAYS DEPENDENT ON DELS' READING OF SPECIFIC PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION AND OF SENTIMENT OF FELLOW AFRICANS AND LDC'S, BUT ON WHOLE DELS PROBABLY REMAIN RESPONSIVE TO SPIRIT OF GURC GUIDANCE. DEPENDENCE IN MOST CASES MUST BE ON INITIAL INSTRUCTION.

(D) GURC REPRESENTATIVES DO NOT RPT NOT HAVE ANY INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER WHICH WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR GOVT TO INSTRUCT OR CONTROL THEM.

(E) GURC ALWAYS LISTENS POLITELY TO USG REPRESENTATIONS, WITH APPARENT INTEREST ESPECIALLY IN NEW FACTUAL INFORMATION, IF USUALLY WITHOUT IMEEDIATE (OR EVEN EVENTUAL) SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE EXCEPT ON ISSUES ON WHICH THERE HAS BEEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION AND/OR PREVIOUS DIALOGUE. GREAT MAJORITY OF ISSUES THAT COME ARE ONES ON WHICH GURC'S PERCEPTION IS STANDARD, OCCASIONALLY SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTIATED, THIRD WORLD ONE -- THUS DIFFERENT FROM OURS -- AND GURC NOT SWAYED BY HEARING OUR PRESENTATION. (COMMENT. WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IS SOMETIMES SELECTIVE AND SIMPLIFIED PRESENTATION OF ARGUMENTS AND FACTS, BASED ON HASTILY ASSEMBLED AND INADEQUATE INFORMATION. EMBASSY HOPES AND EXPECTS NEW EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS WILL CONSISTENTLY GIVE US BETTER AND MORE TIMELY MATERIAL WITH WHICH TO WORK THAN HAS BEEN CASE IN PAST. CONFIDENTIAL

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END COMMENT). EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GURC ALREADY ACCEPTS, WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS, CONCEPT THAT USG/GURC INTERACTION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES IS PART OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. INDEED, IN PAST SIX MONTHS, AMBASSADOR HAS MADE SUBSTANTIVE CALLS ONLY ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. GURC UNDERSTANDS RELEVANCE OF OVERALL STYLE AND TONE OF ITS ACTIONS, BUT WOULD LIKELY SEE RELEVANCE OF SPECIFIC ISSUES ONLY IF THEIR NUMBER AND QUALITY LIMITED TO THOSE WHICH ARE CLEARLY CORE ISSUES WITH VISIBLY DIRECT USG INTEREST AT STAKE (E.G. PUERTO RICO, GUAM; NOT SOUTH AFRICA, ISRAEL, OR KOREA). GURC DOES NOT RPT NOT SOLICIT USG SUPPORT THROUGH EMBASSY ON MULTILATERAL MATTERS ON SUBSTANCE OR ON GENERAL APPROACH TO AND PRIORITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ALTHOUGH MINISTERS AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS INFORMALLY LET US KNOW CAMEROON'S FEELSING ESPECIALLY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

RACIAL ISSUES. OCCASIONALLY GURC FORMALLY ASKS SUPPORT FOR
ITS CANDIDACY FOR SEAT IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM.
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